



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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October 4, 2007

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV250-8-1

SUBJECT: FNM-FY-08 Budget Operations

Purpose: To provide guidance on FY 2008 budget operations

Expiration Date: September 30, 2008

This bulletin is to provide guidance on FY 2008 budget operations.

The President signed a continuing resolution on Saturday, September 30, 2007 funding operations through November 16, 2007 with 12.8% of our FY2007 appropriation.

MANDATORY PROGRAMS:

- NRCS has received a funding apportionment from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the following mandatory programs:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Conservation Security Program (CSP)

To the extent possible employees should accelerate and focus on implementation of EQIP, both prior year contracts and assisting with new contracts.

- NRCS has no apportionment, at this time, for the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). These programs will remain inactive in WebTCAS preventing any time charges, and you are instructed to cease all work on these programs until further notice.
- We do not have an apportionment, at this time, for the following mandatory programs:
 - Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
 - Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program (GSWC)
 - Grassland Reserves Program (GRP)
 - Wetlands Reserve Programs (WRP)
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

NRCS is working with OMB to obtain funding to carry out our Technical Assistance (TA) for prior year workload for these programs. Employees are to continue to provide customer assistance for prior year contracts and to give general assistance related to these



programs, but they are NOT to accept applications. Your time should be recorded in WebTCAS to the appropriate program for accountability purposes. Be aware that charges against these program codes in WebTCAS will be obligated against the CTA Program account until an apportionment is received. Please limit, to the extent possible, your activities on these programs

DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS:

- The Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is NOT a Congressional Earmark. It was part of the FY 2007 appropriation and is part of the FY 2008 Continuing Resolution. You should continue to use the US-CTA-GLC Program Activity Code in WebTCAS as appropriate to record your time for this Initiative.
- The Continuing Resolution funds other Discretionary Programs (Soil Survey, Snow Survey, Plant Materials Centers and Resource Conservation and Development) until November 16, 2007.
- The ongoing work in West Virginia under the Watershed Rehabilitation Program (WF-07) can move forward under the CR. With limited available funding, no funding is to be spent for future assessments of dams at this time.
- The active project work in West Virginia under the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WF-03 and WF-08) can continue using agency recoveries and other unobligated funds.

During this period of uncertainty about our full Fiscal Year 2008 funding level due to the status of the Farm Bill Programs and the lack of an actual Appropriation (working under a CR level), we will be limiting our spending to essential/critical obligations and expenditures needed to carry out mission critical tasks. The agency has instituted a hiring freeze as of October 3, 2007.

We will keep you informed on this issue as more information becomes available.

Please address any questions or concerns that you may have to your supervisor.

/s/

KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

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